

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSCE-00

NSC-07 USIE-00 NEA-10 EUR-25 /065 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:PHARE:IPERNICK:THANSON:SM

APPROVED BY S/PRS - PAUL J. HARE

S/S - DWMILLER

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TO USDEL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 100

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJEC: REPORTAGE OF TRAVELING PRESS, TUESDAY, APRIL 30

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

SUMMARY: THREE FRONT-PAGE AND TWO SECOND-PAGE STORIES CARRIED BY TRAVELING NEWSPAPER REPORTERS. ALL FOCUS ON US/ SOVIET AGREEMENT TO COOPERATE IN MID-EAST, THOUGH ANALYSIS DIFFERS ON EXTENT OF COOPERATION. AP AND UPI WIRE COPY MODERATE EX ALGIERS AND ALEXANDRIA. FOCUS IS ON HAK ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN SUPPORT OF BOUMEDIENE AND SADAT FOR NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS.

1. GWERTZMAN STORY NYT PAGE ONE ABOVE FOLD (PIX OF SMILING HAK AND GROMYKO) WITH HEAD "KISSINGER AND GROYMKO VOW MID-EAST COOPERATION." LEAD REPORTS US AND USSR AGREE TO USE INFLUENCE AND TO COORDINATE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE "POSITIVE OUTCOME" IN MIDDLE EAST. HAK QUOTED: "I EXPECT WE'LL HAVE SOVIET UNDERSTANDING, AND I HOPE, COOPERATION." OFFICIALS ABOARD PLANE EXPECT EXTENT OF SOVIET COOPERATION WILL BE APPARENT ONLY AFTER MEETING WITH ASSAD. GWERTZMAN HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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KISSINGER CONFIDENT SOVIETS WILL NOT TRY TO BLOCK AN ACCORD.

ON SALT, US OFFICIALS NOTE PROGRESS DURING PAST MONTH AND STRESS AGREEMENT ON BOTH SIDES TO REACH "LIMITED" ACCORD TO LIMIT MIRV DEPLOYMENT, WITH "POSITIVE" EFFORT TOWARD AGREEMENT IN OFFING. SENIOR OFFICIAL QUOTED TO EFFECT US-SOVIETS HAVE COME "A LONG WAY" SINCE LAST MONTH. ASKED IF AGREEMENT TO COINCIDE WITH NIXON VISIT IN JUNE, SAME OFFICIAL QUOTED: "I CANNOT SAY." SENIOR OFFICIAL INSISTED NO TIMETABLE FOR CSCE SUMMIT DISCUSSED. ALSO NO TIMETABLE SET FOR NEXT PHASE OF GENEVA CONFERENCE, ACCORDING TO AMERICAN OFFICIALS.

2. BERGER STORY PAGE ONE OF POST ABOVE FOLD UNDER HEAD "KISSINGER MID-EAST BID WINS RUSSIAN NOD" LESS POSITIVE THAN GWERTZMAN PIECE, REPORTS HAK RECEIVED "SLIM ASSURANCES" FROM GROMYKO ON DISENGAGEMENT. SAYS US OFFICIALS STRESS NO "UNDERSTANDING" REACHED ON FORM OF SETTLEMENT, APPARENTLY TO FORESTALL ISRAELI NERVOUSNESS ABOUT A DEAL. CITES US OFFICIAL ON KISSINGER PLANE SAYING HAK AND GROMYKO DISCUSSED UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TEST BAN BUT NO CONSENSUS YET WITHIN US GOVERNMENT ON WHAT KIND OF AGREEMENT ACCEPTABLE. SAME OFFICIAL CHARACTERIZED AS MORE UPBEAT ON LIMITATION OF MIRV DEPLOYMENT NOW THAT TWO SIDES WORKING ON COMPARABLE CONCEPTS. FINALLY, SENIOR OFFICIAL SPECULATES ON POSSIBLE KISSINGER TRIP TO MOSCOW BEFORE JUNE NIXON VISIT. BERGER FEELS US AND SOVIETS MAY HAVE ARRIVED AT FRAMEWORK FOR SALT NEGOTIATIONS BUT HAVE DOWNPLAYED IT TO AVOID JACKSON CRITICISM.

3. CHARLOTTE SAIKOWSKI IN CSM HAS FRONT PAGE ABOVE FOLD STORY "US SETS MID-EAST STAGE -- A NEW BREAK-THROUGH," WITH ACCOMPANYING BACKGROUND STORY ON "KISSINGER THE DIPLOMAT, AND THE MAN. . ." WITH PIX OF HAK AND MRS. KISSINGER. STORY SIMILAR TO THOSE CARRIED IN OTHER PAPERS YESTERDAY.

4. O'LEARY STORY PAGE 2 IN STAR (NO PIX) LEADS WITH OPTIMISTIC ASSESSMENT OF HAK-GROMYKO TALKS UNDER HEAD "KISSINGER GETS SOVIET BACKING." O'LEARY REPORTS SOVIETS COMMITTED TO USING ITS INFLUENCE TOWARD A "POSITIVE OUTCOME" OF DISENGAGEMENT EFFORT, BUT HAS US OFFICIAL ADOPTING WAIT-UNCLASSIFIED

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AND-SEE ATTITUDE ON SOVIET HELPFULNESS. SOVIET BACKING WON FOR CONCEPT OF DISENGAGEMENT BUT NOT FOR CONCRETE FORMULA FOR ACHIEVING IT. O'LEARY STATES US OFFICIALS NOT RULING OUT POSSIBILITY OF STALEMATE.

5. BOSTON GLOBE, PAGE 2, CARRIES THREE COLUMNS JHABVALA PLUS PHOTOS HAK AND GROMYKO AND MMES KISSINGER AND GROMYKO. JHABVALA, WHILE COVERING SAME GROUND AS OTHERS, PLACES

MORE STRESS ON COMMUNIQUE WHICH HE TERMS "GUARDED" AND VERY VAGUE ABOUT SOVIET COMMITMENTS TO MOVE THE SYRIANS. BUT THE AMERICAN OFFICIAL SEEMED CONFIDENT THE RUSSIANS "UNDERSTAND" THE AMERICAN OBJECTIVE AND WOULD NOT TRY TO SABOTAGE IT. JHABVALA FEELS ASAD COULD READ COMMUNIQUE AS A SIGNAL TO HIM "THAT SINCE THE SOVIET UNION

IS PREPARED TO LET THE AMERICAN PEACE-MAKING MISSION COME TO FRUITION, HE SHOULD SHOW SIGNS OF ACCOMMODATION."

6. SCHWEID (AP) CASTS ALGIERS STOPOVER AS EFFORT TO GET BOUMEDIENE SUPPORT WHO IN TURN CAN INFLUENCE DAMASCUS. A SENIOR US OFFICIAL ON PLANE BETWEEN ALGIERS AND ALEXANDRIA IS QUOTED AS SAYING HOPES "WERE SLIGHTLY RAISED" FOLLOWING GROMYKO AND BOUMEDIENE TALKS BUT WARNED PEACE MISSION WOULD BE "PROTRACTED" AND THERE WILL BE NO AGREEMENT UNLESS BOTH SIDES CAN MAKE CONCESSIONS. ALSO DESCRIBES WARM WELCOME WHICH HAK RECEIVED FROM SADAT -- A FRIENDLY SMILE AND "HELLO, HENRY" AND TO MRS. KISSINGER, "YOU ARE AMONG HENRY'S FAMILY."

7. UPI (NO BYLINE) FOCUSES ON SPECIAL INFLUENCE BOUMEDIENE HAS WITH SYRIA AND SAYS HAK RECEIVED BOUMEDIENE'S ENDORSEMENT TO SECRETARY'S EFFORTS TO GET CEASE-FIRE AND AGREEMENT ON DISENGAGEMENT. QUOTES HAK AT ALGIERS AIRPORT DEPARTURE: "PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE SHOWED UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF OUR INTENTION." ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, HAK IS QUOTED TO SAY THEY ARE IMPROVING. EX ALEXANDRIA, UPI FILED SIMILAR STORY TO AP: THE "INCREASED HOPE" AFTER THE TALKS WITH GROMYKO AND BOUMEDIENE; THE FACT THAT ISRAEL SHOULD MAKE FIRST MOVE TO BREAK IMPASSE; BUT ALSO NECESSITY FOR BOTH SIDES TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. ALEXANDRIA ARRIVAL ALSO DESCRIBED SIMILARLY TO AP'S VERSION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PEACE PLANS, TOSEC 100
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE088914
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PHARE:IPERNICK:THANSON:SM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740103-0679
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740582/aaaacvyr.tel
Line Count: 156
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 OCT 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <02 JAN 2003 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: C: REPORTAGE OF TRAVELING PRESS, TUESDAY, APRIL 30 FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, US, UR, XF, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: ALEXANDRIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005